

a nodule appears in one night; a vesicle in seven and a node in a fortnight. This node is said to become attached in one month, the head appearing in two months, the feet in three, the tarsals, abdomen and hips in four, the vertebral column in five, and the nose, eyes and ears in the sixth. The soul was said to enter during the seventh month.

Nothing seems to be known regarding the conceptions upon development from the old Syrian and Egyptian civilizations, but it is well to remember that this does not imply that these people did not concern themselves with these outstanding matters. More definite records of an interest in and some understanding of the problem of ontogenesis seem to be found in the writings of the ancient Greeks, many of whose conceptions fortunately are preserved for us. It is true that Francis Bacon wrote:

"Now, from the systems of the Greeks and their subordinate divisions in particular branches of the sciences during so long a period, scarcely one single experiment can be culled that has a tendency to elevate or assist mankind, and can be fairly set down to the speculations and doctrines of their philosophy. Celsus candidly and wisely confesses as much, when he observes that experiments were first discovered in medicine, and that men afterwards built their philosophical systems upon them, and searched for the assigned causes, instead of the inverse method of discovering and deriving experiments from philosophy and the knowledge of causes; it is not, therefore, wonderful that the Egyptians (who bestowed divinity and sacred honors on the authors of new inventions) should have consecrated more images of brutes than of men, for the brutes by their natural instinct made many discoveries, whilst men derived but few from discussion and the conclusions of reason."

The earliest Greek ideas came from the early philosophers, but their reflections could not form a continuous story, or even roughly approximate the truth, for the actual story of prenatal development is too intricate to be formulated by mere speculation. The important thing for us, however, is the fact that these older people attempted to obtain light on the problem of prenatal development and that speculations upon the subject recur in so many of their writings. Among the problems which they considered were those of the origin and nature of the genetic substances, of the rôle of the sexes in procreation; of the determination and the causes of sex and of the nutrition of the fetus. They also speculated as to which of the organs of the body develops first or plays a guiding rôle. This question once caused a great deal of controversy, and was spoken of as the question of the primacy of the organs. The heart, the liver, and the brain each in turn was regarded as the most important or influential or leading organ in development.

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(To be continued)

## CLINICAL NOTES AND CASE REPORTS

### SYPHILIS

#### IN RELATION TO OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES

By HARRY E. ALDERSON, M. D.  
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TWO recent cases of late lues in our practice presented industrial features which are worth recording. It is well known that old luetics are apt to develop gummata at sites of traumatism. When this occurs as a result of injuries sustained at work the case may be classed as "occupational" until the lesions are eradicated by treatment.

The following two case records are of interest in this connection:

Mr. C. C. (No. 25948), a Mexican carpenter, thirty-nine years old, presented a typical non-ulcerating gumma extending across the left upper orbital margin. There was a similar smaller lesion at the inner end of the right eyebrow which had been present for several months. The former lesion appeared shortly after the patient was injured in that spot by a piece of lumber on which he was working. An abrasion resulted and it never healed, resulting finally in a typical syphiloma. There was no history of syphilis and the only other evidence found was a strongly positive blood Wassermann. Under neoarsphenamin and bismuth the lesions disappeared.

Mr. P. C. (No. 25190), an Italian laborer, thirty years old, presented a typical nonulcerating syphiloma at the right inner canthus. His blood Wassermann was strongly positive. It was impossible to obtain a history or other evidence of syphilis. About two months previously, while cutting wood with a "rip saw" a splinter of wood struck the side of his nose near his eye. The patient pulled out the splinter and there was a little bleeding. The wound never healed and the syphiloma gradually developed. Under neoarsphenamin and bismuth injections it subsided rapidly.

In each of these two cases responsibility was accepted by the insurance carriers and the necessary treatment to *eradicate the lesions only* was authorized.

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### A FOUR-BLADED VAGINAL SPECULUM\*

By SAMUEL HANSON, M. D.  
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IN cases of great vaginal relaxation a good exposure of the cervix for purposes of examination or treatment can be gained only by means of a four-bladed speculum. An instrument of this type was recently devised by Nelson<sup>1</sup> which appears to be very satisfactory. However, it occurred to me that a special instrument is not necessary for this purpose, and that equally good results can be obtained with an instrument formed by the combination of two Graves' bivalve specula. This can be accomplished very readily as follows:

A Graves' speculum is introduced into the vagina in the usual manner. A second Graves' speculum of the same size or smaller is inserted and snugly adjusted within the first one so that

\* From the San Joaquin General Hospital.